

# OREGON CROP WEATHER



Oregon  
Agricultural  
Statistics  
Service

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**Weather:** Last week brought much needed precipitation across Oregon. Rain or snow was reported in every county. Areas along the coast received the most rain with totals ranging from just over one and a half inches in Florence, to over three inches in Tillamook. Most of eastern Oregon received between one quarter of an inch to one inch of rain. Despite the recent wet weather, the entire State is well behind its seasonal average for precipitation. High temperature were mostly in the upper 50's and 60's. Low temperatures ranged from the teens and 20's in eastern Oregon to the 30's and 40's in the west. In an effort to increase the coverage of our Weather Summary table, twelve new Agri-Met weather stations have been added this year.

**Field Crops:** Fieldwork was slowed somewhat last week by cool and wet conditions. Producers were busy planting small grain crops as conditions allowed. Other activities included pesticide and fertilizer applications. Many respondents noted that while the recent rains have improved soil moisture supplies statewide, much more rain is needed in order to get back to average. Last week's precipitation had a positive effect on most crop condition ratings.

**Nurseries and Greenhouses:** Nurseries are in the middle of a very busy shipping season with most plants being shipped to the east coast. As usual, trucks are in short supply. Shipping charges are higher than normal with the high fuel prices. Plant material is in good supply and in good condition. Greenhouses are delivering plants to retail nurseries and the many spring plant sales are just starting up.

**Livestock, Range and Pasture:** Heavy precipitation received in some areas of western Oregon last week flooded low-lying pastures. Producers in these areas had to move livestock off bottom pastures back into holding areas or upland pastures. Producers continued to rotate livestock into spring pastures with supplemental feeding in most areas. Precipitation received in eastern Oregon continued to "green up" pastures and rangeland. Additional spring rains will be necessary in many of the drier areas to continue adequate pasture growth. Producers have been busy with spring calving and lambing. Livestock were reported in good condition as they continued to be turned out into spring grazing areas.

**Fruits and Nuts:** Clackamas County berry crops were leafed out with no winter damage. Bartlett pear bloom was nearly finished; set was not yet determined. Apples were blooming. Polk County cherry and prune orchards were in full bloom, but the weather was not the most favorable for good pollination. Yamhill County reports were that sweet cherries and prunes took a big hit from the heavy rains and winds; they had just gotten started with pollination. Most of the pollen and blossoms are now on the ground. Washington County prunes, Asian pears, Gravenstein apples, early cherries, and some strawberries were in bloom. Hazelnut catkins were nearly gone. Caneberries and blueberries were leafing out. Grapevines were emerging from dormancy. Cool, wet conditions prevailed during most of the week in the lower Hood River Valley slowing early development of tree fruit bloom. Crop development was as follows: d'Anjou pear at 50% to 80 % open blossoms; Red Delicious apple at tight cluster to first pink (WSU stages 4 & 5); Bing cherry at first bloom (WSU stage 7); Pinot noir grapes at budswell to wool stage (Eichhorn-Lorenz stage 2 & 3). Sweet cherry trees were in full bloom in The Dalles area, several weeks earlier than normal. Last month, most of the orchardists put on their first spring sprays before tree blooming or bee activity. Planting of new sweet cherry varieties was active through the week. Frost fans and heaters were needed several days this past week to protect the cherry blossoms. The cold, wet weather this past week has slowed bee activity in orchards. Some of the early orchard blocks were blooming late and vice versa. Southern Willamette Valley prunes and peaches were past bloom, cherries and pears were in full bloom, and early variety apples were prepink. Recent wet weather had growers even more concerned about Eastern Filbert Blight. Jackson County pears were in full or final bloom. Several nights of frost protection were needed during the week, but no major problems. Cover sprays were applied to pear trees.

**Vegetables:** Lane, Linn, and Benton counties reported winter crops of onions, potatoes, shallots, and radishes available for sale at the Farmers' Markets. Irrigation was not required to get germination of spring seeded vegetable crops in Polk County. Seedbeds were prepared for sweet corn and other vegetables in Jackson County. Rhubarb was emerged in Clackamas County and growing nicely in Washington County. Washington County also reported that green peas were up. Potato growers started planting in Umatilla County.

**Soil Moisture-Week Ending 04/03/05**

	<b>Very short</b>	<b>Short</b>	<b>Adequate</b>	<b>Surplus</b>
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Topsoil	13	23	58	6
Subsoil	20	29	51	-

**Crop Progress-Week Ending 04/03/05**

<b>Crop</b>	<b>This week</b>	<b>Last week</b>	<b>Last year</b>	<b>5 year average</b>
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Barley planted	48	-	59	56
Barley emerged	34	-	31	-
Spring wheat planted	64	-	61	60
Spring wheat emerged	28	-	24	-
Days suitable for fieldwork	4.2	-	-	-

**Crop Condition-Week Ending 04/03/05**

<b>Crop</b>	<b>Very poor</b>	<b>Poor</b>	<b>Fair</b>	<b>Good</b>	<b>Excellent</b>
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Winter wheat	2	11	25	56	6
Barley	1	8	72	11	8
Range and pasture	5	11	30	50	4

**CLACKAMAS:** Fall seeded grains growing well, no winter damage. No ill effects from the droughty winter yet. Recent rains have replenished soil moisture. Much fertilizing and herbicide application underway. Berry crops are all leafing out with no winter damage. Bartlett pear bloom near finish; set not yet determined. Apples were blooming. Some early vegetables planted. Rhubarb emerged. Nursery operators have been very busy shipping materials to interstate markets as well as locally. Greenhouse supplies are moving into local retail outlets. The winter was very easy on livestock; most in very good shape. Pastures are providing good volumes of forage in most cases.

**COOS/CURRY COUNTY:** Abnormally high rainfall amounts this week caused a late flooding of lowland areas. Many producers have had to move livestock off bottom pastures and into holding areas or back to upland (winter) pastures. Overcast conditions prevailing throughout the period. Low temperatures for the period was 40.21 degrees. High temperatures for the period was 57.61 degrees. Precipitation for the period was 5.49 inches over 4 days, compared to a 5-year (including drought years 2001-2004) average of 0.74 inches. Weather year precipitation stands at 53.95 inches, still 4.87 inches below historical average and 1.62 inches below the 5-year (including drought years) average of 55.57 inches precipitation. In Bandon, low temp for the period was 38.46 degrees, 1.95 degrees above the 5-year average. High temp for the period was 55.18 degrees, 9.98 degrees below the 5-year average. Precipitation for the period was 3.02 inches over 4 days compared to a 5-year average (including 4 drought years, 2001-2004) of 0.68 inches. Weather year precipitation stands at 37.9 inches, 2.84 inches below the 5-year average (including 4 drought years, 2001 – 2004) and 9.31 inches below the historic average.

**JACKSON:** Most fields receiving over an inch of rain during the past week, which was much needed. Fertilizing of pasture & grain crops; seedbed preparation for sweet corn and other vegetable crops started. The rain over the weekend was a big help on crops already planted, but slowed down some field preparation. The ongoing showers has kept the ground a bit too wet. Rain was a big help for hay and pasture grasses. Nights are a bit too cool for really good growth. Pears are still in full bloom with lots of cover spraying being done. We had a couple of cool nights, but with the water and air movers, not too much damage. Vegetable crops that are in the ground liked the rain and seemed to be doing well. Greenhouses and nurseries are both very busy with early spring plants and potted starts. There seems to be a very good supply of flower starts at stores, and also early vegetable plant starts. Lots of cattle on pastures with some still getting supplemental feeding. Some activity with giving spring shots and tagging. Getting ready for summer pastures. Some spring babies are at their mother's side. Lambs were looking quite good and there seems to be a good crop of them. Weather has slowed down some fieldwork, but some land is still being worked. Still some field fertilizing. Cattle and sheep being worked (shots, tagging, and branding).

**JOSEPHINE:** Nice week. Rain, hail, snow and the rain was plentiful. Snow is good in the mountains. The end of March and the first week in April was our winter month. Busy in-between storms trying to finish up spring work. Not much in the way of activity for gardens just yet. Maintenance work included fences, pruning, and animals. Everything blooming.

**LANE/LINN/BENTON:** Willamette Valley prunes were past bloom, cherries and pears were in full bloom, and early variety apples were prepink. Recent wet weather had growers even more concerned about Eastern Filbert Blight. Several nights of frost protection were needed during the week, but no problems. Cover sprays were applied to pear trees. Fresh produce, including onions, potatoes, shallots, and radishes showing up at the farmers markets. Greenhouse and nurseries were in full swing for spring. Wet, cold weather slowing growth down.

**MARION:** Continued showers this week has helped build soil moisture levels. Some field work continued as weather allowed. Hop yards being hilled and crowned. Fertilizer and broadleaf herbicides being applied to some of the grass seed fields. Some stripe rust showing up in some winter wheat fields planted to the variety Foote. Most crop fields look fairly good for this time of year.

**POLK COUNTY:** High temperatures below normal by almost 10 degrees. Sporadic rain showers with heavy hail in areas. Spring wheat has emerged. Cherry and prune orchards are in full bloom, but the weather is not the most favorable for good pollination. Topsoil moisture is adequate enough that irrigation is not required on spring seeded vegetable crops to get germination.

**WASHINGTON:** Red clover and alfalfa growing well. Grass for seed looking good. Small grains planted during late winter found themselves under flood water beginning of spring with doubtful recovery. Spot spraying grass fields. Some strawberries are blooming along with prunes, asian pears, gravenstein apples and early cherries. Catkins nearly gone from filberts. Caneberries and blueberries leafing out. Grapevines emerging from dormancy. Rhubarb growing nicely, green peas up. Nurseries busy shipping balled and burlap wrapped trees and rotating potted shrubs and plants from starting fields. Calves looking good, pastures grazed off quickly and supplemental feeding continued. Many low pastures flooded by Easter day flood. Rain finally came, with ferocity and too fast.

**YAMHILL COUNTY:** Reports are that sweet cherries and prunes took a big hit from the heavy rains and winds, as they had just gotten started with pollination. Most of the pollen and blossoms are now on the ground. Rains have been a welcome relief for most crops but the more than four inches over last weekend put some crops under water as rivers and streams came out of their banks. Rain this week has been spaced-out a little better with a day of dry to go with a couple of days of off-and-on rain. Rivers and streams were back in the banks and standing water in fields is being absorbed.

## EASTERN OREGON

**BAKER:** Received rain and snow this week – much needed. Calving is wrapping-up. Still could use more rain; way behind average for the season. Pastures were really “greening-up” with the recent rains. No snow left in Grant or Baker counties.

**GILLIAM:** Rainfall beginning later Saturday, and continuing through Sunday at least in the Condon area.

**HARNEY:** Cool and wet; pretty normal for this time of year. Calves being branded; some early turnout. Had snow showers, hail, and wind.

**HOOD RIVER:** Cool, wet conditions prevailed during most of the week, slowing early development of tree fruit bloom. At week’s end, crop development in the lower Hood River Valley was as follows: d’Anjou pear at 50% to 80 % open blossoms; Red Delicious apple at tight cluster to first pink (WSU stages 4 & 5); Bing cherry at first bloom (WSU stage 7); Pinot noir grapes at budswell to wool stage (Eichhorn-Lorenz stage 2 & 3).

**KLAMATH COUNTY:** Spring work began a few weeks early because of a warm winter with little snow and a warm spring. Some spring planting done. Last week brought cold temperatures, rain and even snow. Limited snowpack will affect water availability.

**MALHEUR COUNTY:** Last week saw many rain showers and rain/snow mix. Fair amount of rain last week will do a lot of good for pasture and forage. Some field work continued depending on conditions. Cooler weather and wind have slowed growth down some. Showers increased demand for spring wheat, barley, and oat seed to the point it stressed supplies. Onion and sugar beet planting about done depending on location. Winter wheat condition mostly good. Some spotty stands. Rain accumulation about .41” for the week. Most cattle turned out; most grazing conditions good. No reduction in numbers.

**SHERMAN COUNTY:** Spring planted barley has been just completed within the last 10 days. Not much spring wheat planted due to drought conditions.

Showers were a welcome change, but need much more to recharge soil and pastures.

**UMATILLA:** Welcome rain last week has wheat looking better; situation; was almost desperate. Average or above average precipitation needed from here on out. Wheat looks good now, but soil moisture low. Starting to plant potatoes and field crops around Hermiston. Wind slowed field work. Grape bud break in Milton-Freewater. Crop planting plans adjusting to anticipated early irrigation cut-off. Scattered rains up to approximately 0.5 inches with snow showers in the mountains. Creeks and river running the most water yet this spring. The week has been mostly cold with high winds.

**UNION COUNTY:** Lots of moisture this week! Most fields too wet to work.

**WALLOWA COUNTY:** Even though received some moisture this week, still a long way from getting out of the dry conditions. However, the forecast is for a wet April, which would help.

**WASCO COUNTY:** Wheat fields came through the winter with very little erosion. The winter wheat fields are now bright green, but still fairly short. The rain during the last two weeks will greatly aid in the wheat development process. Weed spraying is active on calm dry days, while spring wheat seeding continues. Spring plowing continues. Alfalfa fields were irrigated in Dufur and Tygh Valley. The alfalfa plants have broken dormancy and were showing early green growth. Sweet cherry trees were in full bloom in The Dalles area, several weeks earlier than normal. Last month, most of the orchardists put on their first spring sprays before tree blooming or bee activity. Planting of new sweet cherry varieties was active through the week. Frost fans and heaters were needed several days this past week to protect the cheery blossoms. The cold, wet weather this past week has slowed bee activity in orchards. Calving and lambing have been active this past month, and all livestock were doing well. A few cattlemen started to mark and vaccinate their early calves. Some of the early orchard blocks are blooming late and vice versa.

**Weather data for selected stations in Oregon, Week ending: April 3, 2005 (as of 11:00 am)**

Station	Air temperature <sup>1</sup>				Growing <sup>2</sup> Degree days		Last week precip. <sup>3</sup>			Season cum. Precipitation <sup>4</sup>			
	Low	High	Avg.	DFN	Total	DFN	Total Inches	DFN	Days	Total Inches	DFN	Pct. Normal	Days
<b>COASTAL AREAS</b>													
Astoria/Clatsop	40	58	49	+3	4	-3	2.06	0.70	5	44.34	-10.39	81	121
Bandon <sup>5</sup>	38	57	48	-1	-	-7	3.02	1.62	4	43.44	-6.31	87	110
Crescent City	37	56	48	-2	3	-14	2.50	0.89	3	39.85	-16.08	71	87
Florence	38	62	48	+0	4	-3	1.58	-0.14	4	47.58	-16.20	75	109
Tillamook	37	61	48	+2	-	-7	3.07	1.17	7	51.05	-21.66	70	119
<b>WILLAMETTE VALLEY</b>													
Aurora <sup>5</sup>	40	62	48	+1	2	-5	1.23	0.44	5	20.99	-12.31	63	106
Corvallis	37	68	50	+4	8	+1	0.36	-0.45	5	14.37	-21.49	40	80
Detroit Lake <sup>5</sup>	33	61	42	+2	-	+0	3.54	2.21	5	22.47	-33.84	40	54
Eugene	35	66	49	-1	10	-3	0.95	-0.07	4	18.45	-23.26	44	93
Hillsboro	36	61	47	+0	-	-7	1.16	0.44	6	18.07	-13.19	58	103
McMinnville	38	60	47	-1	-	-9	1.07	0.21	4	16.87	-20.20	46	103
Portland	41	60	49	+1	3	-9	0.93	0.25	4	17.88	-11.19	62	99
Salem	38	63	48	+2	2	-5	1.08	0.34	4	17.73	-14.94	54	96
<b>SW VALLEYS</b>													
Grants Pass	33	69	48	-3	3	-17	2.12	1.52	4	20.82	-6.40	76	74
Medford	32	68	48	-2	3	-12	1.11	0.76	4	12.30	-3.27	79	58
Roseburg	34	70	48	-2	6	-10	2.11	1.43	4	19.62	-7.91	71	78
<b>NORTH CENTRAL</b>													
Condon	27	61	42	+0	-	+0	0.44	0.16	4	6.04	-3.55	63	54
Echo <sup>5</sup>	29	64	49	+0	2	-11	0.29	0.12	2	3.38	-3.26	51	69
Heppner	28	65	45	+0	-	-7	0.18	-0.17	4	5.24	-4.15	56	64
Hermiston	28	65	50	+2	7	-6	0.03	-0.14	2	3.11	-3.49	47	42
John Day	26	56	42	-1	2	-5	0.53	0.25	4	6.11	-1.75	78	68
Madras <sup>5</sup>	25	65	42	-2	-	-7	0.17	0.00	4	4.35	-2.95	60	64
Moro	27	58	43	-2	-	-5	0.04	-0.17	3	5.05	-3.27	61	66
Parkdale <sup>5</sup>	29	53	42	-6	-	-8	1.03	0.52	5	15.79	-11.29	58	94
Pendleton	30	64	47	+0	6	-4	0.42	0.18	3	4.41	-4.22	51	59
The Dalles	32	59	48	+3	3	-4	0.19	-0.03	4	5.85	-3.96	60	66
<b>SOUTH CENTRAL</b>													
Agency Lake <sup>5</sup>	30	64	44	+6	3	+3	1.18	0.88	4	8.54	-4.01	68	52
Bend	24	64	41	+1	1	-3	0.14	-0.03	2	7.91	-0.60	93	46
Burns	19	57	41	+3	1	-1	0.23	0.02	3	6.42	-0.12	98	58
Christmas Valley <sup>5</sup>	15	60	38	-5	-	-7	0.09	-0.12	2	5.32	-3.41	61	52
Klamath Falls	19	63	40	-2	2	-3	0.30	0.07	3	6.88	-3.51	66	50
Klamath Falls <sup>5</sup>	19	63	38	-4	-	-5	0.29	0.06	3	6.50	-3.89	63	75
Lakeview	18	60	39	-1	-	-3	0.18	-0.12	3	3.05	-7.99	28	32
Lorella <sup>5</sup>	18	63	38	-4	-	-5	0.34	0.11	4	7.79	-2.60	75	75
Redmond	20	65	43	+3	7	+0	0.09	-0.05	3	4.88	-0.75	87	48
Worden <sup>5</sup>	25	64	40	-2	-	-5	0.14	-0.09	2	6.34	-4.05	61	66
<b>NORTHEAST</b>													
Baker City	20	56	42	-1	-	-5	0.32	0.11	5	5.21	-0.74	88	59
Joseph	22	52	38	+2	-	+0	0.95	0.53	6	9.52	-8.07	54	79
La Grande	25	54	44	+1	-	-7	0.41	0.06	7	5.51	-6.04	48	57
Prairie City <sup>5</sup>	19	57	39	+4	-	+0	0.44	0.03	3	6.42	-8.52	43	48
Union	22	55	43	+0	-	-7	0.48	0.20	5	7.38	-0.53	93	65
<b>SOUTHEAST</b>													
Ontario	24	63	46	-2	1	-11	0.28	0.11	2	3.37	-3.66	48	34
Rome	18	65	43	+1	-	-5	0.15	-0.04	3	4.65	-0.17	96	43

<sup>1</sup> Air temperature in degrees Fahrenheit. <sup>2</sup> Growing degree days base-50 degrees Fahrenheit. <sup>3</sup> Precipitation (rain or melted snow/ice) in inches. <sup>4</sup> Season cumulative precipitation starts September 1, 2004. <sup>5</sup> Agri-Met weather stations.

DFN=Departure from normal (using 1961-1990 normals period).

Precipitation days = Days with precipitation of 0.01 inch or more.

Summary based on NWS data.

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